

year, but they decided not to go to the filing station to fill up because they thought they were going to go to Saddam Hussein's gas station.

Mr. Speaker, any other industry in the free market, if the Cherrios company forgets to put aside enough Cheerios, guess what? People go and buy corn flakes or raisin bran and they are the loser. Not the oil industry. They did not, through mismanagement, put aside sufficient reserves, and what happens? I tell my colleagues what happens: a 41-percent, on average, increase in profits in the last quarter for the oil companies. Forty-one percent profits.

What to hear something else? Seventy-four percent profits for the secondary oil companies, and a 799-percent increase in profits for the oil drilling companies, all in the last 3 months. The last 3 months. The Republicans want to blame the 1993 4-cent gasoline tax for your 20- or 30-percent increase at the pump this year, not pointing a finger at the oil companies' mismanagement. That is like a Red Sox fan blaming the trade of Babe Ruth for the fact that we are behind 10 games in the pennant race this year. The Republicans should be ashamed for talking about cutting the education budget instead of looking at the oil companies, where they should.

ICWA: A FORMULA FOR HEARTBREAK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentlewoman from Ohio [Ms. PRYCE] is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.

Ms. PRYCE. Mr. Speaker, I want to talk about a formula for heartbreak. The Indian Child Welfare Act was never intended to cause countless stories of heartbreak and tragedy. It was intended to protect native American culture from State agencies and officials who were, back in the early 1970's, removing children from their natural homes and, in many cases without due process of law, placing them outside the Indian culture. This was shameful.

Mr. Speaker, the Congress acted in 1978. The legislation, the ICWA, was well-intended, but it has been applied in a twisting and inaccurate way by some courts throughout this country that is equally shameful. The result of these misguided applications of the ICWA has had a chilling effect on all adoptions.

I came to learn of the chilling effect from a couple in my district in Columbus, OH. Since then, I have come to learn of many, many more cases.

For example, Mr. Speaker, the Indian Child Welfare Act was never intended to rip a little girl from her family of almost 6 years, but this happened. Clara and Kenneth Siroky took custody of Jessica when she was just 22 months old. They have been trying to adopt her every since, but last January, a court ordered Jessica from the

only family she has ever known and placed her with a single uncle of native American ancestry.

She is now 7½. She has celebrated 6 birthdays in the only home and with the only family she has ever known.

Jessica was born to a mother who was part Indian and a caucasian father, making her one-eighth native American. Due to problems experienced by the birth parents, they lost custody of Jessica who was placed in foster care in the Siroky's home. Today, Jessica's biological mother is dead, murdered during a drug deal, and her biological father is in prison in Nebraska.

Mr. Speaker, Jessica wants to be adopted by the Siroky's. She wants to be with the only people she has every called mommy and daddy. She wants to be with her little sister, Susanna. As for 4-year-old Susanna, she is hurt and confused by the departure of her older sister, crying frequently and wondering where her best friend has gone.

During the court proceedings, the scared and panicked Jessica begged to speak to the judge, but he even refused her. In the end, she only had 3 days to say goodbye to her whole world.

Mr. Speaker, one can only wonder what long-term effects this emotional trauma will have on Jessica and all the other children who have been removed from their loving homes under this act. How can we, as a Congress, allow such a well-intentioned law to be interpreted in such a way?

It is hard to imagine how devastated this family is. It is hard to conceive how scared and lonely little Jessica is, being forced to move away to a new and strange home with a new and strange parent with no friends and an unfamiliar school.

This horrifying, traumatic story is but one example of the way the Indian Child Welfare Act has been abused and distorted. There are countless other children and families in this country that have been hurt by this flawed legislation.

Mr. Speaker, it is hard to understand how Congress can allow a law, that it passed with all good intentions, to continue to be doing such terrible damage to families without taking the initiative to correct what we did wrong.

Congress has an opportunity to remove a major obstruction to safe, loving adoptive homes for thousands of children. These minor changes to the Indian Child Welfare Act will go a long way toward protecting and preserving one of our Nation's most precious resources: Our children.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in taking this very important step for parents and children throughout our Nation by supporting this legislation.

TAX FREEDOM DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. GOSS] is recognized during morning business for 2 minutes.

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, today is tax freedom day, the day that working Americans can finally stop toiling for the Government and begin to keep their earnings to provide for themselves and their families. By any measure, taxes are continuing to grow at a record pace, consuming an even greater portion of taxpayer income.

The average American family pays more in total taxes than it spends on food, clothing, and shelter combined. Put another way, the typical American now works nearly 3 hours out of every 8-hour workday just to pay taxes. These examples demonstrate what the American taxpayer already knows—all Americans are overtaxed.

A recent Reader's Digest poll underscores this fact. According to the poll, the maximum tax load Americans believe a family of four should bear is 25 percent—that's not just Federal income taxes but all levels of taxation—a far cry from the 38 percent that the average family actually pays today.

This Congress has responded by moving to repeal the fundamentals of the 1993 Clinton tax hike on working Americans—the tax hike on seniors' Social Security benefits and the increase in the gas tax that all Americans are feeling at the pump today. We have passed meaningful tax relief for families that would have erased the income tax burden entirely for 140,000 taxpayers in my State of Florida alone. While we have done our job, President Clinton has consistently opposed and obstructed our tax relief every step of the way.

Tax policy comes down to a basic choice: The failed status quo of ever-increasing taxation of lower taxes that allow Americans to earn more and keep more so they can do more for themselves, their families and their communities. For me and for this Congress, the choice is clear.

CHINA'S VIOLATIONS OF UNITED STATES INTELLECTUAL PROP- ERTY RIGHTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentlewoman from California [Ms. PELOSI] is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call to the attention of our colleagues legislation which I plan to introduce this week to impose sanctions against China for violations of our intellectual property rights.

Mr. Speaker, regardless of where Members are in this body over the annual debate on most-favored-nation status for China, an issue separate from that but clearly about America's competitive advantage internationally, our intellectual property, is one where I think we will have agreement.

Mr. Speaker, over the last 7 years, the United States trade deficit with China has increased by over 1,000 percent. In 1988, the deficit was \$3 million. In 1995, the deficit was \$35 billion. It is